

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting  
 Sunday March 08, 2026 @ 1:00pm  
MINUTES

- I. **Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President at 1:40pm
- II. **Invocation:** Provided by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer
- III. **Roll Call**

	i. Present Absent	
<b>Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President</b>	X	
<b>Mr. Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President</b>	X	
<b>Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer</b>	X	
<b>Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official</b>	2:17p	X

- Roll Call taken at 1:44 pm

IV. **Announcements/Introduction:**

1. Daylight Savings Time Begin Sunday March 08, 2026
2. Mr. Roy Dempsey, Community Outreach Presentation, Tsehotsooi Medical Center – Not Present
3. Apache County Dist. II Ganado Office – Community Road Report  
 Provided by Mr. Alton Shepherd, County Supervisor;  
 Requesting to add two supporting Resolutions for the following AZ House Bills –
  - HB2306: Requesting \$660,000 for Rural School Bus Enhancement and Soil Stabilization Project Product,
  - HB2894: Support Resolution for appropriation in the amount of \$2,800,000 Rural School Bus Route Study.
  - He has been a part of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments for Roads and was appointed as President.
 Provided by Mr. Julius Elwood, Chief of Staff; Community Report
  - New Equipment/Grader Added and Especially painted to honor our Veterans
  - Shared the prepared report provided to all in attendance pertaining to:
    - Current Road Maintenance Inventory
    - Activity Report fir the last three months
    - Map to show location of Roads Maintained
    - Pending projects that are being planned

Comments/Questions:

- Is the Rehabilitation completed for C416? Yes 1.5 miles was rehabilitated
  - When will you budget for gravel for C414? Hopefully soon but this is also based on the ADT.
  - Honorable Vince James questioned other roads within his representative Chapters. N151 that connects with C416 needs to have a Resolution drafted for Funding that might be forthcoming. Requesting a quotation for cost estimate for projects in Cornfields and two other chapters he is delegated for.
  - Third week of April – Trash Pick up Week for the 2026 National County Government Month
4. Dibble Engineering – Resolution CF-MAR2026-27; Presenter Valinda Shirley.
    - \* Ms. Shirley is present and will provide a presentation when the Resolution is up
  5. Other(s):
    - \* Apache County Candidate petitions are circulating for your signature, sign if you are willing.

**V. Reading & Approval of Agenda**

**M: Warren Thomas            S: Cecelia White            VOTE: 23 – 0 – 4**

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer added two Resolutions: CF-MAR2026-28 and CF-MAR2026-29 as requested by Apache County Supervisor.

There were no questions, additions or deletions for the presented Agenda.

**VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: 2/08/26 Regular Chapter Meeting**

**M: Judith Shirley            S: Ruthie Nez            VOTE: 25 – 0 – 3**

Resolution was accepted in printed form with no questions.

**VII. Old Business:**

**1. Business Report February 2026: Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager**

**M: Leon Shirley            S: Dickie Smith            VOTE: 31 – 0 – 2**

- Chapter Administration – The Administration continues to be open from Monday to Friday excluding Holidays or closures announced by the Navajo Nation OPVP. The Office Hours remain 8:00a to 12:00p, Closed for Lunch from 12:00p to 1:00p, Open again from 1:00p to 5:00p.
- No Hay Sales for the past 2 months; Our long time Vendor from Camp Verde deceased per family about two weeks ago. Hay Sales was the Chapter's greatest revenue.
- Chapter Vehicles – still in the shop and have not been returned.
- ARPA Home Improvement – 2 more homes completed as of Friday 3/6/26
- Upkeep with supplies needed for the Home Improvements, but is having difficulty due to the Chapter Vehicles in the shop for repair, therefore Ms. Earle has been using her POV for picking up needed material. Ms. Earle has a Car, so sometimes she is limited to haul some things.

Ganado Post Office – Cornfields Chapter Assisted with the Renovation and reopening of the Post Office. There were collaboration of businesses who made it possible to reopen the Post o

- 2/23/26 – Chapter Septic Cleaning Bid Opening, CPMD Lyle Begay participated, RDBO, OOC also participated.
- 2/23/26 – Ms. Earle also stopped in at Navajo Nation Risk Management to follow-up on the status of the final assignment for repair for the Chapter Vehicles. She met with the Senior Analyst, she was updated and Ms. Earle reported to them that they had taken the vehicles in back in November 2025. It was discovered that there was no cost estimate provided for the repair, she was then informed that she would be sent to deductible bill for the Chapter to pay.
- Sihasin Funds were submitted for a Fork Lift and projects in November. Sihasiin expired in December 2025. The bid for the Fork Lift which was opened in November still needs to go through OMB and OOC.
- Rural Addressing under ARPA. She attended a meeting with Rural Addressing . The Rural addressing was established for emergency purpose. She is waiting for the web mapping and would like to make it a Summer Youth Employment project.
- I.H.S. Water Program continues to pay a portion of the water bill and also they in turn assist those families from the community who do not have running water.
- The Financial Report is available an posted by her door.

**QUESTIONS:**

Ella Earl – Will the new Rural Addressing supersede the old addresses?

- The Names of Roads will remain the same and but street names were selected.

- Mr. Albert Johnson – Comment pertaining to the Administration and its functionality, has there been any plans put in place for the financial, projects and Administrative functions so far since the new election?

**RESPONSE:**

- Ms. Earle responded to report that she has her policies in place for the functions of her daily office functions. Ms. Earle reported that she performs all her tasks according to her Job Description and sometimes will go beyond her listed duties to complete a task at hand. For this Administration of Officials, there has not been once that any of the Officials have offered to ask where she need assistance and that she is still waiting for needed assist to follow projects and Resolutions at hand.

**COMMENT:**

- Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President – acknowledges what needs to be worked on.
- Mrs Cecelia White raised a Point of Order to remain on Topic with the Chapter Manager’s Report.
- Honorable Vince James in regards to Legislation # 0029-26 for Emergency Funding in the \$48,392.00. Would like to consider allocating this money to Cornfields Chapter by Resolution.
- Council President accepts the funding for Emergency
- Ms. Earle would like add Preparedness for a Declaration of Emergency. Presently the Emergency Budget is not included on the Balance of Accounts because the balance is 0.
- Honorable James really likes that Preparedness should come before the actual mitigation of a Declared Emergency to remain ahead of the actual Declaration.

**VIII. New Business:**

1. **CF-MAR2026-23:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter General Activity Funds for the Month of February 2026 in the Amount of \$3,999.80.

**M: Cecelia White**

**S: Dickie T. Smith**

**VOTE: 25 – 0 – 6**

ACCOUNTS	AMOUNT
Resale Items	770.20
Rentals	749.00
Services	2,061.85
Miscellaneous	221.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,802.41</b>

- **Of this amount reported, there was a fee for the use of the Square processing card sales in the amount of \$197.34**

2. **CF-MAR2026-24:** Accepting and Approving the Cornfields Chapter Financial Report for the Month of February 2026.

**M: Dickie Smith**

**S: Ruthie Nez**

**VOTE: 25 – 0 – 6**

ACCOUNTS	AMOUNT
Chapter Activities General Fund	8,103.58
Navajo Nation General Fund	81,216.22
Land Claims Trust	6,032.27
Supplemental Youth Fund	24,223.32
Housing Discretionary Fund	12,823.97
LGA Grant Fund	15,706.36

Chapter Stipend Fund	29,628.49
Scholarship Claims Fund	3,830.00
PEP Fund	47,258.61
Veterans Fund	5,897.74
NN Sales Tax Funds	21,293.59
ARPA	117,085.35
Unhealthy Food Tax	84,033.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>456,932.53</b>

3. **CF-MAR2026-25:** Requesting the Navajo Nation Risk Management Program to Expedite and complete pending Insurance Claims for Cornfields Chapter Vehicles.  
**M: Judith Shirley S: Elizabeth Johnson VOTE: 26 – 0 – 5**
4. **CF-MAR2026-26:** Supporting a Resolution of Wide Ruins Chapter Requesting the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation and Apache County Road Department to install Flashing Warning signs with miles per hour signs at locations where the main highways are entered from another roadway or highways  
**M: Judith Shirley to Table Resolution S: Dickie T. Smith accepts to Table VOTE: 23 – 0 – 5**  
Motioner rescinds motion to Table the Resolution due to language in the Resolution that this foregoing Resolution is addressing Navajo Nation DOT and Apache County roads while the Highway 191 is a State Route and should be addressed to Arizona Department of Transportation.
- Mr. Warren Thomas, Community Member explained that signs requested will be placed along the ROW of the Highway, any road merging onto the road ends before the placed Cattleguard or ROW of the highway so that needs to be clarified.
  - Mr. Dickie T. Smith recommends that the Chapter also that requests signs for N15 as well.
5. **CF-MAR2026-27:** A Resolution of the Cornfields Chapter, A Certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation, Supporting Temporary Construction Easements and the Inclusion of Cattle Crossings for the N15 Road Improvement Project (SEGMENT NO. 1) — From Approximately 0.5 Miles North South of the Intersection of N15 and U.S. State HIGHWAY 264 to the Road to the Cornfields Chapter.  
**M: Judith Shirley S: Warren Thomas VOTE: 22 – 0 – 4**  
Presentation: Ms. Valinda Shirley; Dibble Engineering
- Regarding the easement: this entails use of land past the right of way along N15 Renovation
  - The Cattle Crossing – Large Culvert placement under the road for safe livestock crossings.
  - Mr. Warren Thomas – Does this easement include raising the road causing widening the ROW? Will there be bus turnouts as there are along Hwy 264 from St. Michaels, Az to Ganado.
  - Honorable James – suggests to invite Mr. Darryl Bradley to share an update; March 10, 2026 Mr. Bradley with Honorable James and he will in-turn share that info with the Chapter.
- Motioning Party – Do you approve to amend language – “North” to South and “U.S.” to State, Motioner and Second Motioner approves the amended language
6. **CF-MAR2026-28:** Support Resolution for Arizona HB 2894 Appropriation in the amount of \$2,800,000.00 from the State general fund in fiscal year 2026-2027 to the Department of Transportation to distribute to the Northern Arizona Council of Governments for a Rural School Bus Routes study  
**M: Ruthie Nez S: Warren Thomas VOTE: 22 – 0 – 4**

No questions posed for Resolution.

7. **CF-MAR2026-29:** Support Resolution for Arizona HB 2306 Appropriation in the amount of \$665,000.00 for the Apache County Rural School Bus Route Enhancement and Soils Stabilization Pilot Project

M: Warren Thomas

S: Dickie T. Smith

VOTE: 18 – 0 – 6

No Questions posed for Resolution.

## IX. Verbal/Written Reports

### 1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James

- Provided copies of a Legislative Branch Newsletter
- Provided a copy of March 2026 Chapter Report
- Reported on the successful reopening of the Ganado Post office and thankful for all who assisted with the efforts. One business – a local Family Owned Business – Four Seasons Construction provided material to renovate the Post Office.
- Announced his planned bid for Re-Election and would also like to report that Greasewood Springs Chapter will join his Area of Delegated Chapters.
- Honorable James continues to actively advocate for all the Chapters he is Delegated for and will continue to do so.

### 2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President:

- Emergency Preparedness Plan
- A Priority list or location of priority should be identified
- Funding appropriations need to be mapped
- Home Improvement Project – who was assisted, what is the funding balance

Comment: Ms. Ruthie Nez – in regards to assisting the Chapter, each Elected Official has a Role and Responsibility and should consider assisting the Chapter Manager as much as possible.

Mr. Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President:

- Advocating on behalf of the Chapter.
- CLUPC is needed for our Chapter -

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer:

- Continues to remain available to sign Financial Checks and complete minutes.
- Recommendation to Council President in finding a way to start his Role, he can begin leading and we will follow.

### 3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie

- a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – April 06, 2026 – 9:00 am – Ganado Chapter  
Update: Recent District 17 Grazing Meeting had a good turn out for the meeting. They had two presenters from Fish and Wildlife regarding climate change
- b. Permittee Meeting – To Be Announced – Cornfields Chapter
- c. Agency Grazing Meeting – March 16, 2026 – 9:00 am – St. Michaels Chapter
  - Deborah Shirley – BIA Area Office sent a letter on 2/25/26 pertaining to the reissuance of Permits and due to the determination of drought and

less grass/vegetation, free roaming horses and cattle, an Agriculture Resource Management Plan to preserve forage for the wildlife.

- Permits that were issued in the 1940s, need to be reidentified for registration. Some of these Permits are still being carried by descendants of Permit Holders with no tallied livestock.
- Equine illnesses: 2 and Chickens have 1 new illness.
- 17T-522, 17T-523 were repaired. Burnside Navajo Nation Water Resources is still not fully staffed.
- Listing Descriptions for your Tally Count is for your records only

#### 4. Farm Board

- a. Regular Meeting – March 10, 2026 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
- b. Land-Use Permittee Training – March 12, 2026 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
- c. Joint Farm Board Meeting – March 19, 2026 9:00am – NDOT Complex Conference Room  
Ms. Ruthie Nez:
  - \$50 Thousand allocations are currently being calculated
  - Fencing Material sought for farm plots, they are working with Mr. Sam.
  - Thanked attendees coming to their meetings and Trainings.

#### 5. Veterans Organization

- a. Meeting: March 20, 2026 1:00pm Cornfields Chapter
  - Color Guard can be provided, you may schedule with Wilbur Smith, Commander and Patrick Burns, Vice-Commander. There are 88 Veterans.

#### 6. School Announcements:

- a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Official -
  - Relating to the Incident with the State Basketball State Playoffs – All student athletes are reminded to respect their opponents
  - No prayers for school assemblies or graduations proposed by the State Board of Education.
  - Traveling to AZ State Legislative on Tuesday 03/10/26. 2890 Funding for Constructions to the school renovations planned.
  - Enrollment – slight increase but under 1,000.
- b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative - Not Present
- c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member
  - Regular School Board Meeting – March. 11, 2026 @ ~~9:00 am~~ 1:00pm
  - Construction funding 12 million for the Renovation of the School Buildings.
- d. Kin Dah Lichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member – Not Present

#### 7. Other(s): None

**M: Elenita Begay**

**S: Sally Thomas**

**VOTE: 13 – 0 – 5 Failed**

#### X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

1. Next Planning Meeting – Tuesday, April 07, 2026 4:00pm
2. Next Regular Meeting – Sunday, April 12, 2026 1:00pm

**XI. Benediction:** Provided by Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official

**XII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm, by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President

**M: Ruthie Nez                      S: Clarina Williams                      VOTE: Loss of quorum**

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Prepared and Submitted by Ms. Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on March 09, 2026 via email